

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

Claims 1. – 5. (Canceled)

6. (Currently Amended) An image processing system ~~according to claim 1,~~ comprising:

an image reading device having an operation screen, for reading images based on an operation hierarchy of the operation screen;

a directory hierarchy provided in a file server that is communicatively connected to a plurality of client terminals which access the images recorded on the directory hierarchy of the file server via a communication line, and for commonly using said image reading device;

wherein contents of the operation hierarchy of the operation screen of said image reading device correspond to contents of the directory hierarchy for recording the images of said file server such that changing points of the operation hierarchy correspond to changing points of the directory hierarchy,

wherein when a password number is set on either the operation screen of a preset operation hierarchy of the image reading device or a button displayed on the operation screen, a secret directory having a name based on the password number is automatically formed in the directory hierarchy of the file server corresponding to the preset operation hierarchy of the image reading device.

Claim 7. (Canceled)

8. (Currently Amended) ~~The~~ An image processing system ~~according to claim 6,~~ in which an image reading device is connected to a plurality of client terminals and a file server via a communication line, wherein

the image reading device includes:

a reading means for reading an image;

a control panel for displaying an operation screen having a hierarchical structure on which a plurality of buttons establishing contents read by the reading means is displayed and for setting the contents corresponding to each of the buttons;

a control means for controlling the operation screen by controlling the buttons of the operation screen displayed on the control panel,

a first transmission means for sequentially selecting buttons on the operation screen displayed on the control panel to transmit the image read by the image reading device corresponding to the hierarchical structure of the operation screen controlled by the control means to the file server;

a first establishing means for establishing buttons on the operation screen corresponding to the contents displayed on the operation screen,

a first updating means for updating the contents controlled by the control means in accordance with the contents of the operation screen established by the first establishing means;

a second transmission means for transmitting the contents updated by the first updating means to the file server; and

a second updating means for updating the contents controlled by the controlling means in accordance with the changed contents of a hierarchical structure of a directory provided by the file server,

the file server includes:

a recording means for recording an image provided from the image reading device on the hierarchical structure of the directory corresponding to the hierarchical structure of the operation screen;

a third transmission means, after the reading means has read the image recorded on the hierarchical structure of the directory in accordance with the established contents provided from the client terminals, for transmitting the image to the client terminals;

a changing means for changing the hierarchical structure of the directory in accordance with the updated contents provided either from the image reading device or provided from the client terminals; and

a fourth transmission means for transmitting the change in the hierarchical structure of the directory changed by the changing means to the image reading device, and

each of the client terminals includes:

a second establishing means for sequentially selecting buttons on the operation screen which is based on the hierarchical structure of the directory of the file server to establish image fetching;

a displaying means for displaying the image provided from the file server in accordance with the contents established by the second establishing means;

an instructive means for instructing the change in the hierarchical structure of the directory or the button provided by the file server; and

a fifth transmission means for transmitting the instruction by the instructive means to the file server,

wherein when a password number is set on either the operation screen of a preset operation hierarchy of the image reading device or a button displayed on the operation screen, a secret directory having a name based on the password number is automatically formed in the directory hierarchy of the file server corresponding to the preset operation hierarchy of the image reading device,

wherein the password number is stored in a password number directory that is not formed under a screen directory or an operation button directory in a directory hierarchy.

Claim 9. (Canceled)

Claim 10. (New) The image processing system according to claim 6, wherein the secret directory is a directory that is not displayed on the operation screen until the password number is correctly entered.

Claim 11. (New) The image processing system according to claim 8, wherein the secret directory is a directory that is not displayed on the operation screen until the password number is correctly entered.